

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:	Patent application of Lawrence R. Stotts.	:	Group Art Unit: 3677
Serial No.:	10/676,920	:	Examiner: NYA
Filed:	October 1, 2003	:	Attorney Docket No.:
For:	ALL PLASTIC CLIP	:	44224-002US1 (188616)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98, the Applicant attaches hereto a completed PTO Form 1449 (modified).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before the mailing of an office action on the merits. Therefore, no certification, petition or fee is believed to be required. However, if a fee is found to be due, authorization is hereby provided to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below, with sufficient postage, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450..

BY

Gloria McLaurin

DATE:

2-6-04

The references identified on the accompanying Form 1449 and/or described below may be considered relevant to the subject matter of the present application. A copy of one reference (EP 0910971) that is not a U.S. patent or U.S. published application is submitted herewith. Copies of the U.S. patents and published applications need not be submitted pursuant to 1276 OG 55 (August 5, 2003). A concise explanation of the relevance of EP 0910971, which is not in the English language, is provided below.

U.S. Design Pat. No. D478,418 to Badillo et al. shows a belt clip for electronic devices. As seen from the side, the clip appears to be formed in an inverted U shape with front and back sections. The back section is a generally rectangular frame, open in the middle. The front section appears to include a fanciful wall that defines a U-channel, and a finger extending upwardly from the base of the channel. The finger extends forwardly, into and beyond the plane of the U-channel, as it extends upwardly.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,927,580 to Ward-Llewellyn shows a quick release lateral closure system for connecting an accessory to a support body, such as a user's belt. The system includes a clasp formed from a strip of flexible material that is shaped as an endless loop, as shown in Figure 2, or a clip-like structure, as shown in Figure 14. In either case, the clasp includes a back wall and a front or "stationary" wall. The Figures show symmetrical cuts that run from the top of the stationary wall toward the bottom to define a central deflectable wall. At column 4, lines 11-13, the patent indicates that the cuts can be shorter and not extend to the top if the clasp is made of plastic. The cuts are parallel near the top and converge inwardly near the bottom, where they form a central tab, within which the deflectable wall forms an inwardly flared abutment. The central tab corresponds with a slot in the stationary wall for receiving a connector of the type that has a post and an enlarged head to be retained behind the stationary wall. In use, the connector is pushed against the deflectable wall to flex it inwardly until the enlarged head extends past the plane of the stationary wall. Once the post is inserted into the slot, the deflectable wall flexes back to its original position or until the abutment end engages the head of the connector, thereby retaining the connector in the slot.

European patent publication EP 0 910 971, which is assigned to Siemens Aktiengesellschaft, shows a telephone belt clip in the shape of an inverted U, as viewed from the side. The back side of the U shaped clip appears to be partially open and includes a protrusion at the bottom extending toward the front leg. A U-shaped hoop is attached to the front side, which

also includes a recess near the closed bottom of the hoop. An English-language abstract of the publication, a copy of which is submitted herewith, indicates that the clip is formed from a one-piece deformable plastic element.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,597,102 to Saarikko *et al.* describes a clip for a telephone or pager. The clip includes a U-channel for receiving a tab-type connector attached to the telephone. An elastic plate in the shape of an inverted U is attached to the upper part of the clip body at a point in the bend of the U. The first branch of the U-shaped plate is intended to be inserted behind a user's belt. The second branch of the U-shaped plate includes a sloped locking protrusion that projects through the body into the U-channel to engage the tab-type connector.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,833,100 to Kim shows a cellular phone holder. The holder includes an elastic member having a base part and a protrusion part which projects out of the body into the U-channel. When a holding button (attached to the phone) is pressed downwardly into the channel, the protrusion part is elastically retracted into the body. The protrusion part elastically returns to its original position when the holding button reaches the lower end of the U-channel. The holding button can be removed from the channel in a similar way.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,850,996 to Liang shows a clip for a telephone having push rods sloping from the sides of the clip downwardly toward a U-channel. A moveable plate is hinged to the top of an opening in the front face of the clip. The plate extends into the U-channel and has a pair of extension strips extending toward the bottom of the U-channel. The ends of the push rods have beveled edges that engage the extension strips and push the strips to push both the strips and plate inwardly when a retained telephone is to be released.

U.S. Pat. App. Publication No. 2003/0047575, in the name of Enkerlin, *et al.*, describes a telephone belt clip having an actuator that releases the telephone with a side to side motion. The actuator communicates with an elongated latch that includes an arcuate, sector shaped cut out for retaining a latch pin attached to a telephone. The latch also includes a resilient spring finger that touches the side wall of the housing while the sector shaped cut out engages the latch pin. When the actuator is pushed sideways, the elongated latch rotates about a pivot point, moving the sector shaped cut out away from the latch pin and deforming the spring finger against the housing wall. When the actuator is released, the spring finger urges the latch back into its resting and locked position.

U.S. Pat. App. Publication No. 2002/0170148, in the name of Mayne, *et al.*, describes a camming belt clip. The belt clip includes two pivotably connecting wing portions that that can be brought together to grasp a device. The wing portions each have cams that engage a cam hole in a separate clip part. Rotation of the clip part with respect to the wing portions locks the cams and holds the wing portions together.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,006,969 to Kim shows a belt holder for portable phones. The holder includes a U-channel on the front with an opening for receiving a pair of locking pieces. The locking pieces are disposed in the opening side by side, being biased toward each other by springs disposed between each locking piece and a side wall of the housing. Each locking piece has two sloped surfaces. The first sloped surface is adapted to engage a button connected to the phone when the button is inserted into the U-channel. The engagement pushes the locking pieces away from each other in sideways fashion against the urging of the springs. The second sloped surfaces push the pieces apart to release the phone when a pair of inclined surfaces attached to a release button are pushed downwardly between the pieces.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,850,954 to Dong-Joo shows a clip for a cellular phone. The clip includes a U-channel disposed on a housing for receiving a button attached to the phone. A snap bolt protrudes from the housing into the U-channel through a T-shaped opening to retain the phone. The snap bolt includes a circular base that engages a spring for biasing the snap bolt into the channel. The front of the snap bolt includes a horizontal portion and a wedge at the bottom center of the horizontal portion, corresponding with the T-shaped opening of the housing. The button (attached to the phone) has a rounded pressing part for urging the snap bolt into the housing when the phone is to be removed.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,730,342 to Tien shows a clip for a mobile telephone having a press button with downwardly extending side legs formed with beveled edges at the bottoms. The beveled edges engage a pair of triangular lugs on a swing plate that is hingedly engaged with openings in the housing. A spring biases the swing plate so that a protrusion extends into the U-channel of the clip to retain the telephone. When the press button is actuated, the beveled edges force the swing plate to rotate against the urging of the spring, thereby withdrawing the protrusion from the channel.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,205,222 to Carpenter describes a clamping device for a portable telephone. The device includes a base that engages the telephone, and a clip pivotably attached

to the base. The clip can be rotated away from the base through a rotation path. An elastic band extends between the base and the clip, urging the clip toward the base until the clip is moved past an intermediate point in the rotation path. Once beyond the intermediate point, the elastic band urges the clip away from the base to act as a stand for hands free telephone operation.

The remaining references listed on the accompanying Form 1449 show or describe various features that may also be considered relevant. It is requested that the Examiner review the references described above and/or listed on the Form 1449, and make them of record in the present application as required by M.P.E.P. § 609. It is further requested that the Examiner initial the enclosed duplicate substitute Form 1449, and return one copy to the Applicant's undersigned representative with the next communication.

The references listed in this Information Disclosure Statement comprise the most pertinent prior art known to the Applicant and his attorneys as of the date hereof. This Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that the references are material or that no better art exists.

Respectfully submitted,

LAWRENCE R. STOTTS

BY: 

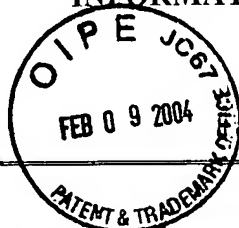
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

APPLICANT:
Lawrence R. StottsFILING DATE **October 1, 2003**GROUP **3677**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE)
	AA	D478,418	8/19/2003	Badillo et al.	D3	218	6/26/2002
	AB	5,597,102	1/28/1997	Saarikko et al.	224	197	5/15/1995
	AC	5,730,342	5/24/1998	Tien	224	271	4/11/1997
	AD	5,833,100	11/10/1998	Kim	224	197	11/21/1996
	AE	5,850,954	12/22/1998	Dong-Joo	224	197	11/13/1997
	AF	5,850,996	12/22/1998	Liang	248	221.11	3/05/1996
	AG	5,927,580	7/27/1999	Ward-Llewellyn	224	272	6/09/1997
	AH	6,006,969	12/28/1999	Kim	224	197	2/16/1999
	AI	6,205,222	3/20/2001	Carpenter	379	446	3/17/1999
	AJ	6,443,340	9/03/2002	Chung et al.	224	197	6/21/2000
	AK	2002/0170148	11/21/2002	Mayne et al.	24	3.12	5/21/2001
	AL	2003/0047575	3/13/2003	Enkerlin et al.	224	271	9/07/2001
	AM	2003/0162510	8/28/2003	Kim	455	90	2/20/2003

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLAS S	TRANSLATION YES	NO
	AN	0910971	04/28/1999	EP	A45F	5/02	Abstract Only	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	